

Message Text

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TAGS: UN, SENV, ECA, OCON

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE - ECA INVITATION TO ATTEND
AFRICAN REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING

REF: STATE 226324

FOLLOWING CONSTITUTES SUMMARY OF U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR UN
WATER CONFERENCE AND IS PROVIDED FOR BACKGROUND OF U.S.
DELEGATION TO SUBJECT MEETING:

1. THE U.S. HAS INDICATED BOTH WITHIN THE UN COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL THAT
IT INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE WATER CONFERENCE
AND THE VARIOUS PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES, AND WILL WORK TO
ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE. ON MAY 6, 1976, AT
THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT IN NAIROBI, KENYA, THE SECRETARY OF
STATE DECLARED THAT "WE WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AT THE
UNITED NATIONS WATER CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN MARCH OF
NEXT YEAR, PUTTING FORWARD PRACTICAL MEASURES TO SHARE OUR
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KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE." THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT WAS

PRESENTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A DISCUSSION OF THE U.S.
ROLE IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. A SPECIAL CONFERENCE PREPARATORY TASK FORCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED UNDER THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL (AN INTER-AGENCY GOVERNMENTAL BODY ON WHICH VARIOUS BRANCHES OF USG WITH AN INTEREST IN WATER--SUCH AS INTERIOR, EPA, USGS, ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AID, RIVER BASIN COMMISSIONS, ETC.--ARE REPRESENTED). THUS, THE WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL, FUNCTIONING AS A COORDINATING BODY, IS ASSISTING THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE, COST-OUT, AND RECOMMEND U.S. PROPOSALS TO THE CONFERENCE. CONGRESSIONAL STAFF AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE PREPARATORY TASK FORCE.

3. INTEREST IN DOMESTIC WATER (I.E. SAFE DRINKING WATER) HAS HEIGHTENED AS THE RESULT OF THE VANCOUVER HABITAT CONFERENCE, WHICH APPROVED SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ON WATER AND REFERRED THEM TO THE WATER CONFERENCE. AS A CONSEQUENCE, WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THE UN WATER CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT TO GIVE GREATER EMPHASIS TO THIS AREA IN THE GUIDELINES THEY ARE PROVIDING FOR THE REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS; AND WE ARE TO PARTICIPATE ON AN AD HOC INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE WHICH THE SECRETARIAT MAY ESTABLISH TO CONSIDER THE RESOLUTIONS EMERGING FROM HABITAT. THIS AREA IS ALSO NOW RECEIVING MORE ATTENTION IN OUR OWN PLANNING.

4. THERE FOLLOWS LISTING OF THEMATIC PAPERS NOW IN PREPARATION OR UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR CONFERENCE (LISTING ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY, NOT FINAL LIST OF PAPERS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO CONFERENCE):

A. INTEGRATION OF WATER MANAGEMENT INTO NATIONAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS.

B. WATER, FOOD AND FIBERS.

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C. WATER AND ENERGY.

D. WATER AND TRANSPORTATION.

E. INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT.

F. MEETING DOMESTIC WATER REQUIREMENTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS.

G. PLANNING AND EVALUATION TECHNIQUES SUPPORTING DECISION-
MAKING FOR BALANCING CONFLICTING VALUES.

H. INTEGRATION OF WATER QUANTITY AND WATER QUALITY
MANAGEMENT.

I. RESEARCH AND EDUCATION.

J. DATA COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION TECHNIQUES.

K. MANAGEMENT OF UPLAND WATERSHEDS.

L. WATER MANAGEMENT IN ESTUARIES AND THE COASTAL ZONE.

M. FLOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT.

N. CONTROL OF WATER POLLUTION FROM TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

5. TWO REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE WATER
CONFERENCE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. THE U.S. WAS
REPRESENTED AT BOTH MEETINGS. THE ESCAP REGIONAL MEETING
WAS HELD IN BANGKOK, JULY 27-AUGUST 2. THE LATIN AMERICAN
(ECLA) MEETING WAS HELD IN LIMA, AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 3.
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